

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 881

By Cobb C

A RESOLUTION to recognize Mrs. Pamela J. Cooper on the occasion of her retirement as Director of First Choice Pregnancy Counseling Center.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed their duties with extraordinary dedication and diligence as exemplary public servants; and

WHEREAS, through their special endeavors, these praiseworthy people have given unselfishly of themselves, their time, and their talents in order to perpetuate the public good and are a credit to their respective professions, their communities, and their families; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Pamela Jane Renegar Cooper is one such estimable person who has served with distinction for nine years as the founder and director of the First Choice Pregnancy Counseling Center (FCPCC); and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Cooper began her much deserved retirement in January of 2008, after counseling countless women in Bedford County and the surrounding area; and

WHEREAS, the good people of Bedford County have long recognized and appreciated Mrs. Pamela Cooper's excellence as a benevolent person who is always willing to lend a helping hand to those in need it and as a role model for young people; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Shelbyville Central High School in 1971, Pamela Cooper continued her education at Middle Tennessee State University, earning a degree in elementary education in 1974 before receiving her master's degree in education; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Cooper then gave unreservedly of herself to mold the young minds of Bedford County, teaching combined third and fourth grade classes, first grade, fifth grade, and homebound students from 1975-1991; and

WHEREAS, due to extenuating health concerns, Pamela Cooper retired from teaching in 1991, and was then free to respond to a desire by her church to establish a crisis pregnancy center as a mission and ministry project; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Cooper started the FCPCC in January of 1999 and quickly realized that the need for the center was much greater than first anticipated; in less than five years, the FCPCC was large enough to break off from being a ministry of First Baptist Church and obtain its own charter and is now administered by an independent board of directors that encompasses members of different religious denominations; and

WHEREAS, under Pamela Cooper's astute leadership, the center's counseling efforts have grown tremendously from a simple effort to counsel girls and women for whom pregnancy is a crisis, to many other areas of need, including a clothing and resource center that provides expecting mothers with clothing and offers programs to teach young mothers how to care for their infants and themselves during their pregnancies; the FCPCC also promotes abstinence to all junior high and high schools in Bedford County as a way to prevent unwanted pregnancies and is open five days a week, when most shelters servicing a community of comparable size are only open two days a week; and

WHEREAS, the center houses its operations in its own custom-designed facility, and as of January of 2008, employs two paid employees to oversee and carry out its mission, including an executive director; and

WHEREAS, the FCPCC is truly a great organization with a tradition of being a catalyst for positive change; and

WHEREAS, the success of the FCPCC is directly attributable to Pamela Cooper's selfless efforts to serving her fellow citizens with integrity by means of peerless vision, hard work, and dedication to the collective health and welfare of Tennessee and Bedford County; and

WHEREAS, throughout her sterling service at the FCPCC, Mrs. Cooper has tirelessly worked as a dedicated volunteer, never receiving a salary for any of her efforts; she plans to continue her work at the center as a counselor after her retirement as director; and

WHEREAS, Pamela Cooper has served her fellow Tennesseans with the greatest acumen, integrity, and dedication throughout all of her endeavors to establish and further the highest precepts of public service; and

WHEREAS, through it all, Mrs. Cooper has been very thankful for the love and support she continues to receive from her husband, Barry D. Cooper, their two children, Terry Don Cooper and Arenda Jane Cooper, and their four grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Pamela Cooper exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Pamela Cooper should be specially recognized for her impeccable community service and many superb contributions to piecing together the enduring fabrics that comprise the grand tapestry of the United States of America; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we extend to Mrs. Pamela J. Renegar Cooper our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement, applaud her meritorious service to the citizens of this State and wish her every continued success in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.